



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

APR 26 2012

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Health-General § 7-205 – DDA – Waiting List Equity Fund (Fiscal Year 2011)

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

According to the requirements set forth in Health-General Article Section 7-205 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, which establishes the Developmental Disabilities Administration Waiting List Equity Fund, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is submitting the attached report detailing the activities of the fund. In addition, I have included information on the number of individuals admitted to and discharged from State residential centers, the number of individuals served through the Waiting List Equity Fund, the providers serving individuals with the fund in Fiscal Year 2011, and the number of individuals on the waiting list for services as of July 1, 2011. The report provides retrospective information as well as information for Fiscal Year 2011 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011).

If you have any questions regarding these reports, please contact Ms. Marie Grant, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs, at (410) 767-6480.

Sincerely,

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Ms. Sarah Albert, MSAR #7818  
Ms. Marie Grant  
Ms. Renata Henry  
Mr. Frank Kirkland

## **Developmental Disabilities Administration Report on the Waiting List Equity Fund Fiscal Year 2011**

Health-General Article 7-205 establishes the Waiting List Equity Fund (WLEF). The purpose of the fund is to ensure that when individuals leave State residential centers the net average cost of serving them shall follow them to community-based services and any funds remaining are used to provide community-based services to individuals eligible for, but not receiving a current service. Health-General §7-205 (f) requires an annual reporting on use of the WLEF.

### **Historical Background**

It is important to note that implementation and monitoring of the WLEF has changed over time from regional administration to central administration. Allocation of the WLEF was realigned with the Maryland Health-General Article §7-206 and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.22.15 so that funds are provided to people on the DDA Waiting List only.

Historically, when utilizing the WLEF, the DDA included funding for people who were already in a service, but needed more. Prior to January 2009, the DDA Waiting List contained names of all people requesting service regardless if they were already receiving a service or not. As a result, the WLEF was used, in some cases, to increase funding for additional or new services for people already receiving support. This process has changed and currently the DDA only utilizes WLEF for completely new placements.

The process for distribution of funds has changed too. Previously, DDA Regional Offices were allocated a percentage of the WLEF to serve anyone who applied in their region. Regional Offices were not required to follow any prescribed ordering for distribution of funds. Depending on the number of people in need, the Regional Office caregiver age threshold differed for the smaller regions because they had less people seeking funding. These practices have been eliminated by the current administration and a single list of eligible people is kept centrally and is used to target funding where appropriate.

### **Challenges with families delaying decisions and declining funds/services**

Priority of the WLEF is based on people on the Waiting List with the oldest caregivers. Historically, people on the DDA Waiting List have caregivers in their high 70s - 90s which continues today especially with grandparents assuming care responsibilities. Some families choose at birth to provide all necessary care for their loved one and rarely or never seek public assistance. Some caregivers from these generations feel obligated to care for their own and are reluctant to accept even minimum assistance such as respite.

Despite personal meetings with resource coordinators and others regarding the various in-home support options available, some caregivers fear that they are being asked to have their loved one removed from their home and placed into a group home. As a result, caregivers have delayed and even declined WLEF funding for services.

## **Process Changes**

During FY 2011, the DDA authorized funding and resource coordination services to assist a specific number of elderly caregivers in exploring options and services to support their family member's identified needs. The DDA also developed information letters for caregivers to advise them of the funding opportunities open to them. This effort unfortunately had little to no impact on those individuals/families that were contacted.

For FY 2012, the DDA continues to monitor the utilization of the WLEF. Given the prior years experience we have aggressively expanded the target group identified for possible access to the funds in October, January, and February. To date, a total of 62 people have been authorized access to funding. If it appears that most of the 62 individuals do not wish to access this funding we will broaden the pool of individuals targeted for the funding this year.

The DDA is also exploring additional strategies to share information and provide assistance for caregivers. These strategies include developing fact sheets and user friendly guides related to service options and personal follow ups from resource coordinators or regional offices to assure that the individual and/or caregiver understands the benefits of this funding. The DDA is also seeking input from DDA stakeholders, the Maryland Caregiver Council, and "grandparent" advocacy organizations for new strategies to inform caregivers of the funding opportunities and the need to plan for the future of their loved ones with developmental disabilities.

### **People Served by the Waiting List Equity Fund**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>People Served</b>
1997	10
1998	32
1999	67
2000	118
2001	98
2002	37
2003	14
2004	27
2005	33
2006	25
2007	61
2008	38
2009	39
2010	62
2011	10

### FY2011 Receipts and Expenditures to and from the Fund

Balance: July 1, 2010	\$ 2,533,647.03
Deposits: Facilities	\$ 613,132.00
Interest Earned	\$ 325,563.13
Disbursements	\$ 123,454.30
Balance: June 30, 2011	\$ 3,348,887.86

### FY2011 Admissions and Discharges from State Residential Centers

	Admissions	Discharges
Brandenburg Center (closed)	0	12
Potomac Center	19	15
Holly Center	2	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>

### Waiting List

DDA Waiting List as of July 1, 2011			
Crisis Resolution	Crisis Prevention	Current Request	Total
104	1,139	5,292	6,535

### FY2011 Providers Serving Individuals with the Fund

Provider	Service	Total
Community Living, Inc.	Residential	\$2,228.55
Forward Visions	CSLA	\$1,309.99
St. Peter's Adult Learning	Day	\$461.07
The ARC Baltimore	CSLA	\$4,035.67
The ARC Baltimore	Day	\$2,334.42
UCP Central Maryland	CSLA	\$7,647.00
VOCA Corporation	Residential	\$103,634.46
Resource Coordination		\$1,803.14
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$123,454.30</b>